



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Week Ending: October 2, 2011

Number: 30

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 2, 2011

Excessive rains continued to hinder field activity throughout Virginia. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.4. Soybean leaves continued to yellow and show quality issues as a result of the excessive moisture. Peanut digging is behind as well as cotton defoliation. Producers continued to get tobacco in the barn as quick as possible although in some areas flue-tobacco harvest has been delayed. Corn harvest has resumed and field preparation for small grain planting is underway. Vegetable harvest is almost complete.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 4, 2011	8	24	63	5
September 11, 2011	1	13	67	19
September 18, 2011	1	15	71	13
September 25, 2011	1	9	67	23
October 2, 2011	1	11	67	21

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 4, 2011	10	27	59	4
September 11, 2011	8	14	66	12
September 18, 2011	7	17	68	8
September 25, 2011	6	14	65	15
October 2, 2011	7	12	66	15

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Cooperative Extension
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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	5	7	35	42	11
Livestock	2	5	30	52	11
Hay, Other	6	10	33	36	15
Hay, Alfalfa	3	6	23	52	16
Soybeans	0	4	21	62	13
Peanuts	0	2	46	42	10
Cotton	0	11	69	20	0
Apples, All	0	0	35	65	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	94	91	100	100
Corn Mature	87	83	94	94
Corn for Grain Harvested	63	59	84	57
Corn Silage Harvested	89	84	99	93
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	44	35	74	55
Soybeans Harvested	2	1	8	4
Winter Wheat Seeded	28	26	14	11
Barley Seeded	40	31	23	32
Oats for Grain Seeded	50	34	29	15
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	76	72	69	77
Burley Tobacco Harvested	93	75	93	88
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	99	95	98	100
Peanuts Dug	8	4	17	21
Peanuts Combined	4	1	6	12
Cotton Bolls Opening	87	76	82	88
Cotton Harvested	1	0	19	11
Fall Apples Harvested	49	41	58	68

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 2, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Oct. 1	Mar. 1 to Oct. 1 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	75	57	84	41	66	3	3833	3542	0.40	4.50	0.49	28.15	-5.36
Norfolk	78	65	87	52	72	3	4565	3947	1.02	7.48	3.31	45.79	9.45
Richmond	79	63	84	51	71	5	4355	3835	1.71	8.99	4.89	38.57	4.44
Roanoke	74	58	83	45	66	2	4005	NA	0.04	7.40	3.45	32.49	-1.00
Wash/Dulles	74	60	80	46	67	4	3872	NA	1.10	8.76	4.84	34.12	1.94

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

Frederick has received showers this past week. Pasture has started to green back up and producers are not feeding now.

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Jason H Carter)

Seeing some leaf and stem rot in fall seeded alfalfa and cover crop clover due to cool and very damp conditions over last 3 weeks.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

The week began with some rain and ended with cool autumn temperatures. Pastures and hayfields are in excellent shape and row crop harvest is progressing in a timely manner.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Corn harvest continues after the weekend rains. Small grains are being planted for grain harvest and cover crops. There was a significant drop in temperatures Oct 1 and 2, no frost. Highs were 60, lows upper 40's. A warm up is expected this week

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Pumpkin harvest is pretty much over. Most pumpkins that survived the rains of the last 4-6 weeks have been gathered for curing. Locally, harvest was OK although many pumpkins rotted in the field due to excessive moisture. Corn harvest is still under way. Fallen corn stalks (lodging) from rot is presenting more of a problem as harvest drags on due to muddy, impassable field conditions. Soybeans are doing well, but need some dry weather to insure seed quality and prevent rot.

Central Continued.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Wet and cool weather has delayed field work. Cover crop and small grain planting is behind....soy bean harvest has not yet begun partially due to wetness. Broadcast cover crops have been successful due to abundant moisture to put them to the ground and germinate. A few hardy souls are trying to make a cutting of hay and all of it has been rained on enough to spoil it. Well managed pastures are doing well with all this moisture and those who stockpile fescue are loving life. Unfortunately the well managed pasture is the exception in our area.

EASTERN

KING GEORGE (John Howe)

Wet conditions are delaying harvest.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

More rain and humidity for most of the week. Corn harvest stopped for a couple of days but continued at week's end. Fields are soggy and folks are having problems in some areas getting across fields with equipment. Field preparation continues for small grain planting. Field burn down and fertilizer/lime applications are ongoing. Soil sampling continues. Corn yields still holding at good to very good with excellent yields in some places. Let's hope the prices stay up. Grass is really growing but haymaking weather has not been cooperating. Should be a very good fall cutting of hays once the weather turns dryer. Vegetable harvest is about over. Most peppers and tomatoes are done due to the wet conditions. Looking forward to the next few days being more like fall.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

A cold snap with potential for frost has put most vegetable and tobacco farmers on alert. Harvesting and housing of tobacco and storage of tomatoes for gassing has taken priority.

SOUTHERN

NOTTOWAY (Jimmy Gantt)

Flue Tobacco harvest has been delayed due to late rains and wind from hurricane Irene leaning plants over to a point where mechanical harvesting is impractical and manual harvesting is required. The effects of hurricane Irene on dark tobacco have now become apparent. Bruised and torn leaves along with late rains have promoted disease in the crop and significantly reduced the quality.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Cooler weather last week was nice. Producers are getting tobacco in the barn as quickly as possible. Fall calving of beef cattle is underway.

(Southeastern continued)

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Soybeans leaves are yellowing and farmers are scouting for any and potential issues. Fields need to dry up to finish up corn harvest, start peanut digging and cotton defoliation. Quality will be an issue for the cotton and peanut crop. We are in need of an extended period of dry weather.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence) Field conditions are wet. Farming activity has slowed as farmers are waiting on fields to dry out. Farmers are ordering wheat seed. Anticipate more acres wheat planted this fall if weather permits.



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